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Gray Davis
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Environmental
Protection Agency

Meeting Minutes Yurok Environmental Monitoring Workgroup Weitchpec Community Center Friday, November 19, 1999

Participants: Susan "Tweet" Burdick, Yurok
Wendy "Poppy" George, Hupa Tribe
Bessie Lee, Environmental Program Manager, with Yurok Tribe
Ron Johnson, CSU Humboldt, Art Department
John Melvin, Environ. Program Tech., Yurok Tribe
Richard Myers, Yurok Tribe

Ex officio: Kean Goh, Department of Pesticide Regulation
Pam Wofford, Department of Pesticide Regulation
Jeff Dolf, Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
David Cavyell, Del Norte County Agricultural Commissioner's Office

A list of action items for the next meeting was presented

- Kean will have a breakdown of the budget and expenses so far for the next meeting.
- The group will ask members who have not attended recently if they still want to be in the workgroup. The group will then go to the council to see if the membership should be opened.
- A subgroup of interested gatherers (plant subcommittee) will be formed.
- The group is interested in pursuing the cancer survey. Dr. O'Malley will be asked to return in a future workgroup meeting. The group would like to have someone from the Department of Health Services at the same meeting.
- Bessie will look into the possibility of getting additional funding for the health survey.

Pam presented an update on the fall 1999 aerial application monitoring. The results from the three sites selected for application monitoring of triclopyr (2 sites) and glyphosate (1 site) were all non-detects during and immediately following the application. Preliminary results show low levels of triclopyr were detected at one site during the first rainfall event following application. A final memo will be available by the next workgroup meeting.

Kean described Dr. O'Malley's project for training of physicians dealing with pesticide exposure concerns.

Bessie explained that the culture committee has seen the draft cancer surveys that Dr. O'Malley presented at the September workgroup meeting and would like to add some additional questions.



recipient name

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Ron asked about the results from the vegetation sampling in the study being conducted in the Stanislaus National Forest. His question was why the results showed detectable amounts on plants farther away from the spray area, while not detected closer. Kean explained that the plants were not lined up straight out from the spray area but randomly established in nature away from the edge of spray. Therefore, near plants may be upwind from the spray while the downwind plants were found further out. The discussion then moved to the subject of plant sampling for the upcoming year. Kean explained that it would be good to select plants from three categories; plants gathered for basketry material, plants gathered for food, and plants gathered for medicinal uses.

The following general questions were posed to the tribe to help guide the direction of plant monitoring:

Do you want to know about exposure of gatherers when gathering at their traditional gathering sites?

Do you want to know potential exposures when gathering near sprayed areas?

Do you want to look at how far herbicides drift on plants during application?

And how long the herbicides are detectable in the plants in spray areas?

Kean described the difference in methods of analysis for plants intended for consumption and plants intended for construction of baskets. The food and medicinal plants would be analyzed for total residues (the whole plant is analyzed), whereas the plants used for basket making would be analyzed for dislodgeable residues (what can be washed off the plant surfaces).

Bessie asked about the EPA's groundwater management plan and whether it would affect any of the herbicide use in the area. Kean explained that the plan dealt only with "leachers" or pesticides known to leach to groundwater, and that only atrazine might be affected in the Yurok areas.

The group also expressed the desire to do sediment sampling in future monitoring plans.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 21, 2000 to be held at the Weitchpec Community Center.